

1    **CLAIMS**

2    What is claimed is:

- 3    1.     A mattress comprising:  
4         a head end;  
5         a foot end;  
6         a first side and a second side; and  
7         a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the  
8    center region including one or more materials that mitigate the emergence of a center  
9    ridge over repeated uses of the mattress.  
10  
11   2.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the center region is separated by an  
12   approximately equal distance from the first side and the second side.  
13  
14   3.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress is a queen size mattress.  
15  
16   4.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress is a king size mattress.  
17  
18   5.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the center region of the mattress has a width  
19   of between about two inches and about twelve inches.  
20  
21   6.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the center region has a firmness reduced by  
22   about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to other regions of the mattress.  
23  
24   7.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes a quilted material over  
25   a sleeping surface thereof, the quilted material having a firmness in the center region  
26   reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to other regions of the  
27   mattress.  
28  
29   8.     The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes an upholstery material  
30   over a sleeping surface thereof, the upholstery material having a firmness in the

1 center region reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to other  
2 regions of the mattress.

3

4 9. The mattress of claim 1 wherein the mattress includes a core, the core having  
5 a firmness in the center region reduced by about ten percent to about thirty percent  
6 relative to other regions of the mattress.

7

8 10. The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes a plurality of open coil  
9 springs.

10

11 11. The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes a plurality of pocket coil  
12 springs.

13

14 12. The mattress of claim 9 wherein the core includes foam.

15

16 13. The mattress of claim 12 wherein the foam is viscoelastic foam.

17

18 14. A box spring configured for use with another box spring to support a  
19 mattress, the box spring comprising:

20 a head end;

21 a foot end;

22 an outer side configured to support an edge of a mattress above the box  
23 spring; and

24 an inner side configured to abut a second box spring beneath a center region  
25 of the mattress, the inner side having a firmness reduced by about ten percent to  
26 about thirty percent relative to the outer side.

27

28 15. A second box spring for use with the box spring of claim 14, wherein the box  
29 spring and the second box spring may be placed side by side to present a support  
30 surface to a mattress, the support surface having a center region along the inner side  
31 of the box spring and an inner side of the second box spring with a firmness reduced

1 by about ten percent to about thirty percent relative to the outer side of the box  
2 spring and an outer side of the second box spring.

3

4 16. The box spring of claim 14 wherein the box spring has a core including one  
5 or more open coil springs.

6

7 17. The box spring of claim 14 wherein the box spring has a core including one  
8 or more pocket coil springs.

9

10 18. A mattress comprising:

11 a head end;

12 a foot end;

13 a first side and a second side; and

14 a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the

15 center region including one or more materials having a firmness reduced by about

16 ten percent to about thirty percent relative to other regions of the mattress.

17

18 19. The mattress of claim 18 wherein the center region is separated by an equal  
19 distance from the first side and the second side.

20

21 20. A mattress comprising:

22 a head end;

23 a foot end;

24 a first side and a second side;

25 a center region separated from the first side and the second side and

26 traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end; and

27 a compensation means for reducing a firmness of the center region by about

28 ten percent to about thirty percent relative to other regions of the mattress.

29

30 21. A method for manufacturing a mattress, the method comprising:

- 1           constructing a first region and a second region of one or more materials  
2   having a first firmness, the first region and the second region being configured to  
3   provide a sleeping surface to one or more users of the mattress; and  
4           constructing a center region between the first region and the second region,  
5   the center region being constructed of one or more materials that together have a  
6   second firmness less than the first firmness.  
7  
8   22.   The method of claim 21 wherein the second firmness is reduced by about ten  
9   percent to about thirty percent relative to the first firmness.  
10  
11   23.   A mattress comprising:  
12           a head end;  
13           a foot end;  
14           a first side and a second side; and  
15           a center region traversing the mattress from the head end to the foot end, the  
16   center region including one or more adjustable members controllable to adjust the  
17   center region in response to an emerging center ridge.